

Vienna International Centre, P.O. Box 500, A-1400 Vienna, Austria
Telephone: +43-1-26060, Telefax: +43-1-26060-5867 / 5868
E-Mail: incb.secretariat@un.org Internet Address: <http://www.incub.org/>

Ref.: INCB-CES AUL 109/19
File: 114 (3) AUL & 161/2

3 October 2019

Excellency,

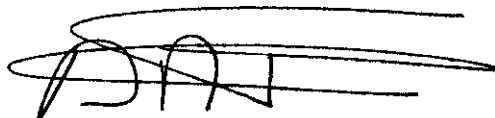
On behalf of the International Narcotics Control Board (INCB), and with reference to the responsibilities of the Board as stipulated in the 1961 Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs as amended by the 1972 Protocol, the 1971 Convention on Psychotropic Substances, and the 1988 United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances, I have the honour to draw your attention to the following matter.

The Board has noted with concern recent reports regarding the legalisation of cannabis possession, use and cultivation in small amounts in the Australian Capital Territory, effective 31 January 2020. As the information does not stem from official sources, the Board would appreciate receiving confirmation regarding the accuracy of these reports from your Government.

The Board wishes to recall that cultivation, production and distribution of cannabis for non-medical purposes is inconsistent with the provisions of the 1961 Convention as amended, in particular article 4(c), which requires State parties to limit the use of narcotic drugs exclusively to medical and scientific purposes. The Board wishes to reiterate that the legalization and regulation of cannabis for non-medical use, including in small quantities, would be inconsistent with Australia's international legal obligations.

The Board looks forward to receiving the information requested and to discussing this and other drug-control matters with Australia.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.



Andrés Finguerut
Secretary
International Narcotics Control Board

Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Commonwealth of Australia
Canberra
Australia

Through & copy to:
Permanent Mission of Australia
to the United Nations (Vienna)
Mattiellistraße 2-4/III
1040 Vienna

Ms. Lisa Studdert
Deputy Secretary
Population, Health, Sport and Aged Care Royal Commission Taskforce
Department of Health
Canberra
Australia